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LETTER DATED 10 JULY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 July 1999 from Mr. Humam Abd al-Khaliq Abd al-Ghafur, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister draws your attention to United States and British attacks on civilian targets and installations in Iraq carried out between 1 January and 30 June 1999 and requests you to intervene to prevent such unwarranted acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 July 1999 from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my letter dated 5 January 1999 providing detailed information on the violations and acts of aggression committed by United States and other aircraft and naval vessels during the period from 1 July to 31 December 1998 (S/1999/59, annex).

In the present letter, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that during the period from 1 January to 30 June 1999 such aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace in the south from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and in the north from bases in Turkey. During this period there were 6,842 aerial violations in southern Iraq and 1,687 in northern Iraq, so that the total number of violations of Iraq's airspace during this period comes to 8,529.

During the relevant period, United States warplanes engaged in such hostile, provocative and inflammatory acts as dropping heat flares and breaking the sound barrier over Iraqi civilian areas and installations, and United States naval vessels also engaged in acts of aggression inside and outside Iraqi territorial waters. These acts were documented by us and were communicated to the United Nations Secretariat at the time they took place. They included those set forth hereunder by way of example.

1. At 0930 hours on 7 January 1999 a United States frigate prevented the freighter Front Champion from entering the Mina' al-Bakr channel, and the harbour master was not allowed to bring it in until its inspection had been completed at 0700 hours on the following day.

2. At 1045 hours on 13 January 1999 a United States formation violated Iraq's airspace in the Salman area and dropped a number of heat flares.

3. At 0945 hours on 21 February 1999 15 United States and British formations coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-18s and were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 24 missions from Kuwaiti airspace and 18 from Saudi airspace, and they overflew areas of Basrah, Maysan, Muthanna and Dhi Qar governorates. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1110 hours, drove them off. At 1605 hours on the same day another five formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraq's airspace. They included F-14s and F-16s and were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 16 missions from Saudi airspace and 4 from Kuwaiti airspace.

4. At 1140 hours on 22 February 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Samawah, Nasiriyah and Basrah areas of the southern region, bombing several localities in the Darraji-Dirhamiyah area. At

1740 hours enemy aircraft fired three projectiles at a civilian locality in Ghammas, and a number of residents were killed and wounded.

5. At 1035 hours on 22 February 1999 10 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They included F-14s, F-16s and F-18s, were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C early-warning aircraft and carried out 12 missions from Kuwaiti airspace and 20 from Saudi airspace. They overflew the governorates of Dhi Qar, Basrah, Maysan and Muthanna and bombed several civilian installations in the southern region, killing and wounding a number of residents. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off. At 1203 hours they returned towards the bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait from which they had departed. At 1635 hours on the same day another 12 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraq's airspace. They included F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and F-18s, carried out 16 missions from Kuwaiti airspace and eight from Saudi airspace, were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C early-warning aircraft and overflew areas of Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Muthanna governorates. They bombed several civilian localities, killing and wounding a number of residents. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1800 hours, drove them off.

6. At 1840 hours on 24 February 1999, United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Iskandariyah area south of Baghdad and fired cluster-dispensing projectiles at civilian localities, killing and wounding a number of residents.

7. At 1445 hours on 28 February 1999, radio station 6 (RS-6), the key link in the system controlling the operation of the Iraq-Turkey pipeline and located 40 kilometres south-west of Mosul in an area where there are no other installations for several kilometres round about, was the target of a direct and savage attack by United States aircraft coming from Turkey. There was large-scale damage to station installations and one of the custodians was killed and three were wounded. The bombing brought a halt to the flow of crude oil through the Iraq-Turkey pipeline exportation system.

8. On 1 March 1999 formations of United States and British aircraft bombed civilian targets in Ninawa Governorate, launching two attacks on the residential complex for the North Oil Company's Ayn Zalah field. A number of residents were killed and wounded in the bombing, and another link in the control system for the operation of the Iraq-Turkey pipeline was destroyed. The gauging station west of Zakho was isolated by the bombing, and serious damage was done to civilian installations.

9. At 1130 hours on 15 March 1999 eight formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory and supported from there by an AWACS early-warning aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s as well as British Tornadoes, carried out 17 missions and overflew areas of Ninawa, Dohuk and Irbil governorates. They fired eight projectiles at several civilian localities in Ninawa Governorate, wounding a number of residents.

10. At 1815 hours on 2 April 1999 United States and British aircraft based in Saudi and Kuwaiti territory bombed a station controlling the flow of Iraqi oil to Mina' al-Bakr, part of the South Oil Company's system. The location of this major control station is the Hamdan site in the Abu al-Khasib area of Basrah Governorate, and it was destroyed by the United States and British aggression. The objective of such aggression is to halt the flow of Iraqi oil by way of Mina' al-Bakr in southern Iraq in a hostile attempt to render null and void the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations concerning the oil-for-food programme.

11. On 30 April 1999 United States and British aircraft dropped five 500-pound NK bombs on Jirjis Ayyub Sultan and five members of his family as they were tending their sheep at a village in northern Ninawa Governorate. These citizens were killed, as were 100 head of sheep, and their property was destroyed.

12. At 0820 hours on 5 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft and an EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 20 of them from Saudi airspace and 8 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shatrah, Jalibah and Rifa'i areas.

13. At 1457 hours on 19 May 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and F-18 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 79 missions, 47 of them from Saudi airspace and 32 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace and overflew the Amarah, Basrah, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Qal'at Salih, Samawah, Artawi, Chabaish, Ushbayjah, Rifa'i, Busayyah, Salman and Afak areas.

14. At 1040 hours on 9 June 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 108 missions, 82 of them from Saudi airspace and 26 from Kuwaiti airspace, were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace and overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Qurnah, Ushbayjah and Shinafiyah areas.

15. At 0720 hours on 30 June 1999 United States and Briti F-14, F-15 and F-18 aircraft coming from Saudi territory violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Basrah, Qal'at Salih, Shinafiyah, Rifa'i, Artawi, Hawr al-Hammar and Samawah areas.

In condemning these repeated acts of aggression against civilian targets and installations in Iraq, we urge you to intervene with the United States and the United Kingdom with a view to inducing them to cease and to renounce any repetition of unwarranted actions that constitute a grave violation on the part of two permanent members of the Security Council of the sovereignty of an independent State and founding Member of the United Nations and that represent a

breach of the Charter of the United Nations and of a principle enunciated in Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

We regard all the States involved - whether those whose aircraft and ships commit such acts of aggression or those in whose territory the aircraft are based, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey - as being fully responsible for these actions, for the damage that they cause and for the security-related, economic and moral threat that they represent for the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State. We affirm in this connection the legally established right of Iraq, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility, to seek compensation for the damage it has sustained owing to the perpetration of these hostile acts in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

(Signed) Humam Abd al-Khaliq ABD AL-GHAFUR
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq